



## FENWICK ISLAND NEWSLETTER

The Town of Fenwick Island, Delaware

Fenwick Island Newsletter

Winter 2012/2013

### Mayor Audrey Serio

Happy Holidays!

Many of us at this time are still cleaning out and getting rid of many items both of sentimental value as well as necessities which were stored on our first floors. Sadly there are a few homes which were flooded on their first floor living spaces and are trying to make their homes livable again. Many have lost their cars to the high rising water. All of these disasters took place on the Bayside of our community. Our bayside has been altered by Sandy. It was a time of clean-up when neighbors were truly neighbors and our streets became a place to commiserate with each other during this life altering event. Throughout this time though, we were all saying that we were lucky to have not been located 50 miles north on the Coastline. Bless all of those people in New Jersey. My prayers and thoughts have been with them during our own problems. Remember during this time of the year not only those in New Jersey and New York, but we have a large group of local residents in Delaware and Maryland who also need your help. Every day we hear of different ways we can be of help, not only monetarily but with physical help as well. Check on your neighbors and make sure they are not in need of assistance still.

Next I would like to thank all of our Town employees from the Staff in the office, the untiring Public Works Department and the Police Department for all their dedicated hours. Our Town Manager, Merritt Burke did an outstanding job making those

decisions quickly which had to be made and making sure they were carried out. I also would like to thank those State officials and workers and the National Guard who came to our Town to help us with the safety and protection of our citizens and their property. Some of the decisions which were made by all of these people involved were difficult but had to be made in the best interest of all of the Town's owners both permanent as well as out of Town owners.

I hope each of you have Happy Holidays and remember how fortunate we are. Enjoy your families and love ones as well as whatever is really important to each of you.



### Town Manager Merritt Burke IV

Welcome back to a festive Fenwick Island! Hurricane Sandy may have damaged properties and vehicles, but it did not dampen the holiday spirit. By the time you read this, public works will have the holiday lights and decorations up around town.

As many residents and business owners are aware, Hurricane Sandy flooded the majority of bayside properties and caused wind damage to several oceanfront homes. The emergency management team prepared accordingly for the hurricane, and I want to inform the community that minimal damage was reported to town infrastructure, vehicles and equipment. From a town management perspective, the community was very fortunate compared to northern coastal towns; however, that does not mean that major damage was not reported. If you experienced flood damage, please call Town Hall or visit the web site for information. Overall, the town fared extremely well, as the ocean dunes held back a frothy Atlantic Ocean, and protected the homes, businesses and streets along the ocean.

Currently, town staff are in the recovery and re-

sponse phase which means that we are removing storm debris, educating homeowners on flood insurance policies, updating the town web site, and continuing to provide a high level of customer service. Additionally, town staff are working on the Cannon Street Park project, completing the FY2013 street repaving project, discussing and potentially constructing sidewalk improvements in front of Town Hall and completing office renovations. I want to thank public works and the police department for all of their hard work, including the extra hours spent patrolling the town during the height of the storm and the extra hours removing debris from the streets.

Moving forward, if the community has questions or comments about Hurricane Sandy and how we prepared and responded, feel free to contact me. There is no doubt that we could have performed some critical tasks differently; however, as your town manager I am extremely pleased with the effort and dedication of the staff. It is a pleasure to serve this community and we should all be proud to live and work in Fenwick Island.

### Special points of interest:

- *Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company & EMS*
- *Flood Mitigation*
- *Fenwick Freeze*
- *Photos of Hurricane Sandy*



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## Environmental Committee

The Inland Bays Foundation is a non-profit environmental advocacy organization whose primary purpose is to work diligently and proactively toward removing the Inland Bays and their tributaries from state and federal lists of impaired waters and to return them to their once 'fishable' and 'swimmable' status. Their specific goals include: (1) sponsoring and supporting educational activities and restoration efforts that lead to the preservation and restoration of the Inland Bays watershed; (2) they work to maintain and foster the political will to preserve and restore resources; (3) advocate informed decisions to foster better land use planning and habitat protection; (4) to keep the public informed of progress or lack thereof in the restoration of the inland bays; and

(5) to hold the government accountable to enforce protections. For more information about membership and the November meeting go to [inlandbaysfoundation.org](http://inlandbaysfoundation.org)

John Belian reports that the October 6, 2012 Fishing Tournament was a great success. Twenty-three anglers participated and all caught fish and all received prizes donated by local merchants. Buzz Henifin regularly monitors the water clarity of Little Asawoman Bay reports it is improving.

The Environmental Committee has received approval from Town Council to move forward with the proposed smoking ban on the Fenwick Island beach.

## Fenwick Island Police Department

The colder weather will be here before we know it and there are some things that we can do to minimize problems. Keep your house warm (around 50°) so that your pipes don't freeze. Turn off your water where it enters the house to avoid under the house pipes from bursting. Put away any outside items, beach chairs, ladders, patio furniture.

Don't give an open invitation to criminals. Check your locks and windows to be sure they are all working.

If you live here year-round, be our eyes and ears. Report anything that looks out of the ordinary and any suspicious activity as soon as you see it happening.

## Fenwick Island Beach Patrol

The summer of 2012 was another safe and successful one for the FIBP. Weather conditions were above average this summer with air and water temperatures peaking earlier than usual and surf conditions (rip currents) remaining moderate. The combination of excellent weather and warmer water resulted in increased crowds

throughout the summer. Nonetheless, the guards did an outstanding job protecting our beach.

### 2012 Statistics:

Rescues—129

Lost/Returned Persons—25

Medical Emergencies—25

Ambulance Calls—3

ATV/Wheelchair Requests—191



### IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TOWN ELECTIONS

**All persons wishing to vote in Town Special and General Elections must register with The Town of Fenwick Island.**

**For a voter registration form, please contact  
Town Hall 302.539.3011.**

**Those who owned property in town prior to March 2013 must register to vote no later than June 30, 2013.**

**You must be registered to vote for at least one year in order to be eligible to run for Town Council.**

**The Fenwick Island Town  
Hall is now an Xfinity WiFi  
"hot spot!"**



## Flood Mitigation



The Fenwick Island Town Council and staff wish you happy holidays and a safe and prosperous new year. See you at the beach!



Hurricane Sandy October 2012



As you are aware Hurricane Sandy, which occurred on October 29 and October 30, was the worst storm this area has seen in decades. Although some homes did suffer extensive damages when the bay waters rose and flooded the first floor, most homes had flooding that damaged entry ways and crawlspaces. These homes, in particular, had damages to the drywall, ductwork and insulation, as well as the loss of many appliances.

Most of the repairs caused by Hurricane Sandy are underway. In order to keep accurate records of these damages you are being asked to contact Pat Schuchman, Town Building Official, to obtain a building permit for all storm-related repairs. The Town is waiving permit fees for all construction related to Hurricane Sandy. Pat can be reached at 302-539-3011. Please call for an appointment to obtain the building permit. You are also strongly encouraged to submit all flood damages to your insurance company.

We have been contacted by a few property owners who have expressed an interest in elevating

their homes after experiencing flooding above their first floors. We have contacted the State Floodplain Coordinator's office asking for assistance in requesting federal grants that may become available in the coming months. In the past, the Town has elevated homes with assistance from the "Federal Mitigation Assistance" funds and the "Hazard Mitigation Grant Program" funds. These are programs that may become available to elevate eligible homes in Town. Homes built prior to 1975 that have experienced flood damage and are not elevated to the floodplain requirements may qualify for this program. There is a cost share of 75% Federal Government and 25% property owner. If anyone is interested in seeing if their home qualifies for these programs, please contact Pat.

In closing, the Town of Fenwick Island Town Council and staff would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and patience while we continue with the recovery phase of Hurricane Sandy. If you have any concerns, feel free to contact us at Town Hall.

## Charter and Ordinance Committee

Since the last newsletter, the C&O committee has presented Council with several readings that were ultimately passed. Changes to licensing and parking were two of the most significant. Please note that all property owners must fill out a "Declaration of Property Status" form. This form will allow the Town to verify whether a property is being licensed as a rental unit.

Any property owner who has not completed the form, and any property owner having delinquent taxes or other financial obligations to the Town will be denied parking passes.

Upcoming items for future discussion will be drafts for Beach Concessions and a smoking ban on the Beach.

## Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company & EMS

Dear BBVFC EMS and Fire District Property Owner:

We have successfully completed our third year of ambulance service in your fire district and wish to thank all of our sponsors, subscribers and donors for your generous support of this critical community service. We received pledges of support for 2011 from over 9,100 of the estimated 10,000 property owners in our district. Your state and county taxes provide us with about one third of our annual operating cost, so we need all property owners to contribute their fair share to this critical community service. If all owners subscribe it will eliminate our operating deficit and lower the an-

nual cost for everyone in the future.

Participation has another benefit beyond supporting this critical community need. The average cost of an ambulance run to area hospitals is \$655 and insurance typically covers only half that amount. We then bill the patient for the difference. If you are a subscriber we will not bill you, your family or guest (even renters) for any amounts not covered by insurance.

If you have any questions or wish additional information please do not hesitate to contact the EMS Chief Douglas Scott at 302-539-7700 or [dscott@bethanybeachfire.com](mailto:dscott@bethanybeachfire.com).



### The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway  
Fenwick Island, DE 19944

Phone: 302.539.3011  
Fax: 302.539.1305

Fenwick Island Police Department  
Phone: 302.539.2000  
FAX: 302.539.2519  
Officer on Duty: 302.542.8793  
EMERGENCY: 911

E-mail: [townhall@fenwickisland.org](mailto:townhall@fenwickisland.org)

### Residential Trash Collection Schedule

#### Monday only Pick-up

October 1 —  
April 29

#### Monday & Thursday May 6 — September 27

### Heavy Trash & Appliance Pick-up

Dates to be determined

#### Yard Waste Recycling Begins again on April 18, 2013

#### Curbside Recycle Schedule

- October through April pick-ups are every other Friday
- May–September pickup every Friday

### Town Council

#### Audrey Serio

Mayor, President of Council  
[aserio@fenwickisland.org](mailto:aserio@fenwickisland.org)

#### Gene Langan

Vice-Mayor  
[glangan@fenwickisland.org](mailto:glangan@fenwickisland.org)

#### Diane Tingle

Secretary  
[dtingle@fenwickisland.org](mailto:dtingle@fenwickisland.org)

#### Gardner Bunting

Treasurer  
[gbunting@fenwickisland.org](mailto:gbunting@fenwickisland.org)

#### Vicki Carmean

[vcarmean@fenwickisland.org](mailto:vcarmean@fenwickisland.org)

#### Bill Weistling

[wwleistling@fenwickisland.org](mailto:wwleistling@fenwickisland.org)

#### Todd Smallwood

[tsmallwood@fenwickisland.org](mailto:tsmallwood@fenwickisland.org)

#### Merritt Burke IV

Town Manager  
[townmgr@fenwickisland.org](mailto:townmgr@fenwickisland.org)

### We're on the Web!

[www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/TwonofFenwickIsland](https://www.facebook.com/TwonofFenwickIsland)  
( NOT a misspelling)

## Fenwick Freeze

The Ninth Annual Fenwick Freeze is scheduled for Tuesday, January 1 at 10:30 AM on Bayard Street beach. Join us for this Fenwick Island holiday tradition. The event is held regardless of the weather.

Pre-registration will take place at Fenwick Island Town Hall on December 29 and December 30 from 11AM – 1PM. The fee for the event before January 1 is \$20 per person, \$16 per person if you register 2-4 people as a group or \$12 per person if your group is 5-8 people. The registration fee increases to \$25, \$20 and \$15 respectively if you wait until the day of the event to register. Each participant will receive a Fenwick Freeze T-shirt

Contact Becca McWilliams (301.906.5037) or email [grif930@Verizon.net](mailto:grif930@Verizon.net) for more information or visit our website or Town Hall for an application form.

### Important Phone Numbers to Know

(All phone numbers are area code 302 unless otherwise noted)

Artesian Water 645.7751  
 PNC Bank 537.2500  
 Cape May-Lewes Ferry 1.800.64FERRY (3779)  
 Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce 539.2100  
 Coast Guard (Non-emergency) 227.2439  
 DART Bus Service 1.800.652.DART (3278)  
 DE Department of Transportation 1.800.652.5600  
 DE State Park Fenwick Island 539.1055 (summer)  
 DE Office of Tourism 1.866.284.7483  
 DE Natural Resources (DNREC) 739.9000  
 DE Fish and Wildlife 739.9910  
 South Coastal Library Bethany Beach 539.5231  
 Poison Control Center 1.800.222.1222  
 Post Office Selbyville 436.8044  
 Red Cross Delmarva Region 1.800.777.6620  
 Sussex County Government 855.7700  
 Tri-State Bird Rescue 737.9543

### Council Calendar

Friday, December 14 ,2012

- Council Meeting 3:30pm

Friday, January 25, 2013

- Council Meeting 3:30pm

Friday, February 22, 2013

- Council Meeting 3:30pm

Friday, March 22, 2013

- Council Meeting 3:30pm

Friday, April 26, 2013

- Council Meeting 3:30pm

Friday, May 31, 2013

- Council Meeting 3:30pm

Friday June 26, 2013

- Council Meeting 3:30pm

Saturday August 3, 2013

- General Election

The 2013 Bonfire Calendar is now open. Reserve early to be sure you get the day you want. Contact Agnes at Town Hall.



# The Ninth Annual Fenwick Freeze



Bayard Street Beach  
Fenwick Island, Delaware  
January 1, 2013 @ 10:30 am

Registration 9:00 – 10:00 am

The Fenwick Freeze is a great way to welcome the New Year!  
Join your family, friends and neighbors....put on your bathing suits and take the plunge!  
Event will be held regardless of rain, shine, snow or sleet!

**All registrants will receive a commemorative shirt!**

## Registration:

	<u>Thru 12/30/12</u>	<u>on 1/1/13</u>
1 person	\$20 each	\$25 each
2-4 people	\$16 each	\$20 each
5-8 people	\$12 each	\$15 each

## How to Register:

- Now thru Dec. 20: Complete this form and mail to address below
- Dec. 29 & 30: Complete this form and take to Town Hall between the hours of 11:00am-1:00pm  
(pre-registrants may also pick-up shirts on these days)
- Jan. 1: Complete form and bring to Bayard Street Beach from 9:00am -10:00 am.

**Proceeds to benefit the Fenwick Island Lifeguard National Competition Fund**

Mail entry form and check (made out to **FIBC** [Fenwick Island Beach Committee]) to:

**The Fenwick Freeze**  
**c/o Becka McWilliams, 927 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707**

Printed Name	Shirt Size (S-M-L-XL)	E-Mail	Signature – Acknowledging that you have read and agree to the release statement below

## Release Statement:

I recognize the risks of illness and injury inherent in any exercise program. I agree to participate and assume all risks of the Fenwick Freeze Event and any related activities. In consideration of my participation in this event, I release the hold harmless the town of Fenwick Island, their affiliates, subsidiaries, principals, and directors, agents, servants, officers, employees and contractors from any and al claims, demands and causes of action of whatever nature, which I or my successors, heirs and assigns may have now or in the future in connection with my participation in this event and related activities. I agree to obey the rules of this event. I understand that there will be no refunds and the event director reserves the right to reject any entry.